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ABSTRACT

Essentially about classroom practice, this book is based on the idea that social education brings the world into the classroom. The book provides opportunities for young learners to explore and clarify values and attitudes, develop investigative skills, discuss issues, solve problems, make decisions and act on the understandings they have developed about the world around them. A comprehensive guide to developing integrated units of work for social education with a focus on language, the planned units in the book cover a broad spectrum of topics and are an immediate resource for teaching as well as models for the teacher's own planning. All the activities outlined in the book have been trialed across a range of age levels in the elementary school. The book includes: (1) an overview of the theory that guides the practice; (2) an outline of the content that should be covered in a comprehensive social education curriculum and information on how the units can be adapted to meet particular needs; (3) useful strategies for social education--ways of learning appropriate to aspects of the curriculum and for life beyond school; (4) seven planned units which guide students through a sequence of learning on topics dealing with significant and challenging issues; and (5) explicit assistance for planning integrated units of work for social education. The book presents an integrated, inquiry-based model of curriculum which engages teachers and learners in shared investigations and develops critical understandings about the social world. (NKA)

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